

To: Moran, Kelly[Moran.Kelly@epa.gov]
Cc: rogers, rick[rogers.rick@epa.gov]
From: Daniels, Lisa
Sent: Thur 6/11/2015 3:09:15 PM
Subject: RE: Miller Chemical Fire

Thanks, Kelly and Rick. This is still an on-going and evolving situation. Here's a quick summary to date:

June 8th Fire at Miller Chemical and Fertilizer Plant, Adams County, PA: A fire fully engulfed the Miller Chemical and Fertilizer Plant early Monday morning (6/8). It was quickly determined that the runoff of the fire suppression water would impact Slagel Run and the South Branch of the Conewago Creek. SDW staff notified two PWSs with intakes on the Conewago Creek – Hanover Borough was not using their intake, New Oxford Mun Auth (NOMA) was using their intake and the decision was made to close the intake at 8:35 am. Sampling confirmed that the intake was closed in time to head-off any contamination of NOMA's water. However, NOMA's only other source of supply is a purchased interconnection with York Water which can provide up to 80% of daily demand. NOMA issued mandatory water restrictions on 6/9 and continued to use existing storage to meet demand. On 6/10, NOMA and York Water completed installation of a temporary bypass around the existing 4-inch interconnection to increase flow to 700 gpm (1.0 MGD) to continue to meet system demand. Regarding the contamination plume, it is estimated that 3.8 million gallons of water was used during the firefighting operation. The clean-up company was able to collect ~ 250,000 gallons. The remainder of the contaminated water traveled just over ½ mile through drainage swales and farm field ditches and entered or continues to enter Slagel Run. Contaminated water has also seeped into the ground around the site and along the ½ mile path and will continue to be released during rain events (although at lower concentrations) unless and until the soil can be removed/remediated. Initial sample results of the contaminated water show very high levels of TOC, nitrate, nitrite, sulfate, metals and detections of various organics and pesticides. Information is still coming in regarding the chemicals that were used/stored at the plant. The contamination plume is the likely cause of a massive fish kill on the Conewago Creek. The Conewago Creek flows into the Susquehanna River. Best estimates for Time-of-Travel (TOT) indicate that the plume may reach the Susquehanna River Friday (6/12) morning. Downstream users on the Susquehanna River have been notified of the estimated TOT to their intakes, along with recommendations to keep a close watch on raw water TOC, pH, etc.

Thanks – Lisa

Lisa D. Daniels | Director

Department of Environmental Protection | Bureau of Safe Drinking Water

Rachel Carson State Office Building

400 Market Street | Hbg PA 17101

Phone: 717.787.9633 | Fax: 717.772.5630

www.dep.state.pa.us



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From: Moran, Kelly [mailto:Moran.Kelly@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 8:17 AM
To: Daniels, Lisa
Cc: rogers, rick
Subject: Miller Chemical Fire

Hi Lisa,

I just got into the office and I'm reading about the situation at the Miller Chemical Plant. Please let Rick Rogers or me know if we can be of any assistance.

Kelly

Kelly Moran

EPA Region 3

1650 Arch Street

Philadelphia, PA 19103

(215) 814-2331 PHONE

(215) 814-2302 FAX